

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01609 151138Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

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R 151030Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4787

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJ: CANNABIS - NEPAL

1. DEVENDRA RAJ UPADHYAYA, SECRETARY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, TOLD EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR APRIL 14 THAT HE HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING BY NEW GOVERNMENT. UPADYAYA, WHO RECENTLY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UN NARCOTIC FUND IN GENEVA, IS STRONG PERSONALITY WITH SUFFICIENT POLITICAL BASE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN THIS ROLE. HE HAS HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN THAT HIS ELDEST CHILD, A HEROIN ADDICT, DISAPPEARED TWO YEARS AGO AND IS PRESUMED DEAD AS RESULT OF HIS DRUG CONNECTIONS.

2. UPADYAYA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF EMBASSY EFFORTS TO HAVE HGM EXPEL FOREIGNERS SUSPECTED OF DEALING IN HASHISH AND NOTED THAT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON BASIS OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED SECRETARY MINISTRY OF FINANCE BY EMBASSY. UPADHYAYA HAS ASKED THAT EMBASSY PROVIDE HIM ASAP LIST OF TEN TO FIFTEEN KNOWN DEALERS, INCLUDING NEPALIS. HE PROMISES THAT "IMMEDIATE ACTION" WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM, DESPITE ANY PROTECTION THEY MAY ENJOY "EVEN FROM THE PALACE."

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3. COMMENT: UPADHYAYA APPEAR TO MEAN BUSINESS, AND EMBASSY

PLANS TO GIVE HIN NAMES OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON FOLLOW-
ING PERSONS: "BLACK JIMMY", BUWAN SINGH GURUNG OF NEPAL
CRYSTAL AND CURIO SHOP, "CRISTIAN" OF SWISS RESTAURANT,
D.D. SHARMA AND SHERCHAN. ARE THERE FURTHER NAMES WHICH
DEA NEW DELHI BELIEVES COULD BE PASSED TO UPADHYAYA?
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BRIEF UPADHYAYA ON SUSPECTED
SHIPPERS IN KATHMANDU SUCH AS WORLDWIDE PACKERS. DOES DEA
HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS? ALTERNATIVELY LIST COULD BE HELD
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS KELLEY OR RAUB VISITS KATHMANDU WHEN
APPOINTMENTN COULD BE MADE WITH UPADHYAYA. ADVISE. EAVES

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